GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2019
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2016
Transgenic Silkworms
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated field trials of transgenic silkworms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the transgenic silkworms would be beneficial to silk farmers; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be made available to farmers for rearing?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. The field trial of transgenic silkworm has been initiated at present on a limited scale at four locations (1) Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Mysore, Karnataka (2) Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Berhampore, West Bengal (3) Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Pampore, J&K and (4) Andhra Pradesh State Sericulture Research and Development Institute (APSSRDI), Hindupur, AP. A committee has been set up to strictly monitor the trial.

(c): Since a grasserie disease is responsible for up to 20% crop loss in silkworm, with the use of transgenic silkworm, this loss can be prevented as transgenic silkworm imparts resistance to the virus causing Grasserie disease.

(d): A minimum of three years testing is necessary before making it available to the farmers.

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